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Rural District of Lanchester.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1936.

JOHN G. WALKER,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CONSETT :

Derwent Press Limited, Front Street.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. RUTHERFORD, GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Lanchester Rural District during 1936. It is gratifying to report that on the whole the Vital Statistics are satisfactory and a great improvement on those of not many years ago. The reduction in infectious diseases as compared with 1933 and 1934, which shewed itself last year was maintained, and I am hopeful will continue.

Considerable improvements have been effected in Housing Matters, Meat and Food Inspection, Clean Milk Production, Privy Conversions and other matters of Public Health importance.

There have been many improvements carried out during the last twelve years and it is with some regret that one sees the former Lanchester Rural District to some extent sacrificed in the Review of County Districts, and to a considerable extent weakened financially.

It is to be hoped that this change will not alter the determination of the Council to press forward improvements of a Public Health nature to the utmost of their ability.

I take this opportunity of thanking the Staff of the Council for their assistance during the year, particularly the Sanitary Inspectors for their energetic work during a period of exceptional stress.

I also thank the Members of the Council for their support.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN G. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Summary of General and Vital Statistics.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	50,647
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	33,737
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	34,072
Population Mid-Year 1936 (Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	32,150
Number of Inhabited Houses (1936) according					
to the rate-books	...	...	...	...	8,249
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£115,969
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£422
Births during 1936	...	506	Birth-rate	...	15·7
Deaths during 1936	...	349	Crude Death-rate	...	10·8
Adjusted Death-rate	...	...	...	...	12·6
Deaths (Infants under one year) 1936	...	...	...	...	37
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	73
Tuberculosis Death-rate, 1936	...	...	...	...	0·59
Pulmonary	...	0·47	Non-Pulmonary	...	0·12

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, ETC.—The Rural District of Lanchester covers an area of 50,653 acres and contains thirteen parishes.

The chief industries are coal mining and those industries associated with its by-products. There are also brick and tile works and a number of quarries.

Considerable business is done in dairy farming and there are 223 registered farms with 287 cow sheds, and 2296 dairy cattle. The number of accredited milk producers in the area has now reached 26 and further applications are pending.

There appears to be no detrimental effect on the health of the population by reason of these industries, apart from the accidents associated with them.

There has been some improvement in the number of men at work during recent years.

The most cordial relationship and interchange of views is maintained between your health department and other departments, official and voluntary with social activities in the district. Our appreciation of the assistance of the officers of the Ministry of Labour, the Unemployment Assistance Board and the Durham County Public Assistance Committee is gratefully acknowledged. The various nursing

associations throughout the district continue to do good work and their part in the well-being of the district is appreciated.

The following extracts from the Annual Report of the Burnhope Colliery and District Nursing Association are some indication of the type of work carried out by these self-help organisations and I am indebted to their energetic Hon. Secretary, Coun. J. Cook for a copy of the report.

We are pleased to report this year a much improved financial position; largely due to the increased number of men employed at the Colliery and their continued support—which we fully appreciate. The increased number of men at the Colliery is a matter of gratification, and altogether we are justly proud of the position the Association has won in the lives of our people.

Last year the Workmen contributed £167 0s. 10d.—For the year just completed, with the Collectors work from the Unemployed and others, amounts to £200 1s. 10d., an increase of £33 1s. 0d.

We are happy in retaining the services of Nurse Gardner, who has served the district so thoroughly and well, by her willing service. We have set a high standard of Nursing Service, which is being maintained as reflected in our Numerical Report. Our efficient Nursing Service, and that expert advice and real practical help in time of sickness is ever at the disposal of our Members.

We wish to express our appreciation for the wonderful loyalty of our Members to this worthy cause which warrants our Appeal to all for their continued loyalty and whole-hearted support of our Association.

Again we would draw the attention of the members to the Midwifery Qualifications of our Nurse, and to her success in work of this kind. In these Midwifery Services there are great changes contemplated with the coming into force of the Midwives Act of 1936. The Committee are interested in these changes and will at all times safeguard the well-being of our Members and their wives and families. The Motor Ambulance is in full use and is giving every satisfaction. The transfer of the Ambulance was, in every way, a successful transaction. Even the Ambulance is to be subjected to further regulations by the District Welfare Committee, but we shall guarantee no further charges, or interference of service to our Members.

Non-members pay 1/- per mile.

We are pleased to mention that the Child Welfare work under the Women's Committee is carrying on good work, and the greatest possible use should be made of this excellent Institution, and particularly efficient Medical Service.

There have been 80 calls on the Ambulance since June and 1812 miles covered.

The Committee's sincere thanks are due to Ritsons (Burnhope Collieries) Ltd. for their support and for their donation £10 10s. 0d., and to the individual members of the firm: Mr. Halmshaw and Mr. Martin, also Col. W. H. Ritson, Mrs. I. M. Ritson and Mr. J. Snaith for their donations; to all Private Subscribers; and the Workmen for their continued Support and Weekly Subscriptions.

On behalf of the Committee,

J. HOBBS, President.

J. COOK, Hon. Secretary.

NURSING ASSOCIATION NUMERICAL REPORT.

Medical Cases during the year	...	...	96
Surgical	„	„	80
Midwifery	„	„	53
Casual	„	„	429

Total Number of Cases nursed	...	...	658
Ante-Natal Visits	...	...	297

Total Number of Visits ... 3557.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births { Legitimate { Illegitimate	494 12	273 4	221 8	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 15·7.
Still Births { Legitimate { Illegitimate	25 0	15 0	10 0	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 47·0.
Deaths ...	349	198	151	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 10·8.

Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	4
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	7·5
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis, 3 deaths.	Rate per 1000 total births		5·6
No. 30. Other Puerperal causes, 1 death.	...		1·9

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	73·1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	72·8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	83·3
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	...	...	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	4

Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were prevalent throughout the year, but to a less extent than in recent years.

(a) POPULATION.—The estimated population as furnished by the registrar general calculated to mid-year 1936 is 32,150, which is 530 less than that of the previous year. The population at the census 1931 was 33,737 so that apparently we have lost 1,587 persons during the last five years, during which period the excess of births over deaths i.e. the natural increase of population was 1,050 so it is obvious that the district is to some extent still being depopulated.

(b) LIVE BIRTHS : BIRTH-RATE.—There was a further fall in the birth-rate, only 506 live births occurring during 1936 compared with 553 in the previous year. This gives the lowest birth-rate recorded for your district which is 15.7 per 1,000 population compared with 14.8 for England and Wales and 17.0 for the Administrative County.

S.D. 55.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-Rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1936.

England and Wales, London
122 Great Towns and 143
Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	122 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	143 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	Lan- chester Rural District
Rates per 1,000 Population.					
BIRTHS :					
Live	14· 8	14· 9	15· 0	13· 6	15· 7
Still	0·61	0·67	0·64	0·53	0·77
DEATHS :					
All Causes	12· 1	12· 3	11· 5	12· 5	10· 8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fever)	0·01	0·01	0·00	0·01	0·0
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0·07	0·09	0·04	0·14	0·03
Scarlet fever	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·03
Whooping Cough	0·05	0·06	0·04	0·06	0·06
Diphtheria	0·07	0·08	0·05	0·05	0·15
Influenza	0·14	0·14	0·15	0·14	0·15
Violence	0·52	0·45	0·39	0·52	0·58
NOTIFICATIONS :					
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	2·53	2·18	2·48	2·57	4·9
Diphtheria	1·39	1·31	1·26	1·69	2·9
Enteric fever	0·06	0·05	0·06	0·06	0·0
Erysipelas	0·40	0·38	0·35	0·44	0·31
Pneumonia	1·11	1·10	0·96	0·99	1·2
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age	59	63	55	66	73
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age }	5· 9	8· 2	3· 4	14· 4	7· 9
MATERNAL MORTALITY :					
Puerperal Sepsis	1·40	Not available			5· 9
Others	2·41				2· 0
Total	3·81				7· 9
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).					
MATERNAL MORTALITY :					
Puerperal Sepsis	1·34	Not available			5·6
Others	2·31				1·9
Total	3·65				7·5
NOTIFICATIONS :					
Puerperal fever	3·27	3·46	2·80	3·03	1·9
Puerperal pyrexia	9·64	9·52	7·57	11·15	16·9

The following table shews the number of births and birth-rate for your district since 1921 compared with those of England and Wales and the Administrative County.

Year.	No. of Live Births.	BIRTH-RATE.		
		Lanchester District.	England and Wales.	Administra- tive County.
1921	929	27.9	22.4	29.8
1922	838	24.0	20.6	25.9
1923	860	24.1	19.7	25.7
1924	907	25.5	18.8	25.4
1925	825	22.6	18.3	23.8
1926	799	22.5	17.8	22.9
1927	687	18.5	16.7	19.8
1928	713	20.0	16.7	20.1
1929	619	17.6	16.3	19.8
1930	677	20.2	16.3	20.7
1931	618	18.2	15.8	19.6
1932	603	18.1	15.3	19.0
1933	547	16.4	14.4	17.5
1934	583	17.7	14.8	17.6
1935	553	16.8	14.7	17.2
1936	506	15.7	14.8	17.0

(c) STILL BIRTHS.—These were more numerous than in 1935, the figures being 25 compared with 22. The rate was 47.0 per 1,000 total births compared with 38.2 last year. This rate expressed per 1,000 population is 0.77 compared with 0.61 for England and Wales.

(d) SEX DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS.—There were again more male than female births. 277 boys compared with 229 girls, or 1,000 males to 826 females.

(e) ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND DEATHS.—It is very satisfactory to recall that these were again much lower than the figures that formerly prevailed. There were 12 such births during 1936 and there was only one death.

(f) DEATHS : CRUDE DEATH-RATE.—There was a further fall in the number of deaths compared with the previous two years. The total being 349 of which 198 were males and 151 were females. This gives a crude death-rate of 10.8 per 1,000 population compared with 12.1 for England and Wales and 11.6 for the Administrative County. The death-rate after applying the comparability factor for Lanchester Rural District is 12.6.

Causes of Deaths in Lanchester Rural District, 1936.

Causes of Death.		Males.	Females	Causes of Death.	Males.	Females
1	ALL CAUSES ...	198	151	28 Nephritis ...	6	5
2	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—	29 Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	3
3	Measles ...	1	—	30 Other Puerperal Causes... ..	—	1
4	Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, &c. ...	10	8
5	Whooping Cough ...	—	2	32 Senility ...	1	4
6	Diphtheria ...	3	2	33 Suicide ...	1	—
7	Influenza ...	4	1	34 Other Violence ...	14	4
8	Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	35 Other Defined Diseases ...	18	10
9	Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	—	36 Causes Ill-defined or unknown ...	1	0
10	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	8	7	Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)		
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	2	2	Small-Pox ...	—	—
12	Syphilis ...	1	—	Poliomyelitis ...	—	—
	General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis ...	—	—	Polioencephalitis ...	—	—
13	Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	25	17	Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
14	Diabetes ...	3	3	Total ...	21	16
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c... ..	14	7	Legitimate ...	20	16
16	Heart Disease ...	36	39	Illegitimate ...	1	0
17	Heart Disease ...	—	—	LIVE BIRTHS—Total ...	277	229
18	Aneurysm ...	15	12	Legitimate ...	273	221
19	Other Circulatory Diseases ...	8	4	Illegitimate ...	4	8
20	Bronchitis ...	17	7	STILLBIRTHS—Total ...	15	0
21	Pneumonia (all forms) ...	1	2	Legitimate... ..	15	0
22	Other Respiratory Diseases ...	2	—	Illegitimate ...	0	0
23	Peptic Ulcer ...	3	1	POPULATION, Resident ...		32,150
24	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	—	—			
25	Appendicitis ...	—	—			
26	Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	4			
27	Other Diseases of Liver, &c. ...	3	5			
	Other Digestive Diseases ...	—	—			

The following table gives the number of deaths and the death-rates in your district since 1921 compared with those of England and Wales and Administrative County. The figure in the right hand column is the adjusted death-rate after applying the comparability factor.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	DEATH-RATE.			Lanchester R.D. Adjusted Death-Rate.
		Lanchester District. Crude Death-Rate.	England and Wales.	Administrative County.	
1921	382	11.1	12.1	13.2	
1922	422	12.1	12.8	13.1	
1923	358	10.0	11.6	11.9	
1924	432	12.1	12.2	12.8	
1925	404	11.1	12.2	12.6	
1926	414	11.5	11.6	11.5	
1927	424	11.6	12.3	12.0	
1928	394	11.0	11.7	10.9	
1929	408	11.6	13.4	12.7	
1930	344	10.2	11.4	11.2	
1931	379	11.1	12.3	12.1	12.9
1932	362	10.9	12.0	11.6	12.6
1933	321	9.6	12.3	11.5	11.2
1934	396	12.0	11.8	11.7	14.0
1935	354	10.8	11.7	11.5	12.6
1936	349	10.8	12.1	11.6	12.6

(g) CAUSES OF DEATH.—A detailed table of these appears elsewhere. The following causes are expressed as percentages of the total deaths.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	...	=	10.6	per cent.
„ from Cancer	...	...	=	12.0	„ „
„ from Heart Disease	...	...	=	21.4	„ „
„ from Bronchitis and Pneumonia, etc.			=	11.1	„ „
„ from Influenza	...	...	=	1.4	„ „
„ from Suicide and other Violence	...		=	5.4	„ „
„ from Tuberculosis	...	...	=	5.4	„ „
„ from Liver & Digestive Diseases	...		=	4.3	„ „
„ from Kidney Diseases	...	...	=	3.1	„ „
„ from Cerebral Hæmorrhage		...	=	6.0	„ „
„ from Circulatory Diseases	...	...	=	8.0	„ „

The high proportion of deaths due to heart disease has to be considered along with old age or other conditions being associated with the final illness preceding death.

(h) CANCER MORTALITY.—This was approximately the same as last year. It is well known that the ability to diagnose malignant disease has steadily improved since the introduction of X-Rays and other methods and it is highly probable that more accurate diagnosis has played an important part in the increased figures for cancer deaths during recent years. The outlook for sufferers from this disease becomes more hopeful with each advance of medical science, and in the early stages cancer is definitely curable in many of its forms. One can only reiterate the advice so frequently given “consult your Doctor at the earliest suspicion of cancer.” It is highly probable that what is suspected to be cancer will not turn out to be so, but if it does, medical science is being given an opportunity of effecting a cure. The following table shews the averages over groups of five years compared with the actual figures for the last four years:—

YEARS.	Average Number of Deaths from ALL Causes per year.	Average Number of Cancer Deaths per year.	Average Percentage of Total Deaths.
1906—1910	438	13·2	3 per cent.
*1911—1918	477	16·4	3·5 „
1919—1923	409	24·8	6·0 „
1924—1928	413	33·8	8·1 „
1929—1933	363	36·8	10·1 „
1933	321	27·0	8·4 „
1934	396	36·0	9·0 „
1935	354	43·0	12·1 „
1936	349	42·0	12·0 „

* 1915—1917 not included.

DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

The seven principal epidemic diseases caused thirteen deaths during the year.

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhoea and Enteritis, under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteric, Typhus, Simple Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
							—
Total							13
							—

The Zymotic death-rate was the comparatively low one of 0.40 per 1,000 population which is lower than our rates in recent years and below the County average which was 0.54.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There was a larger number of deaths of infants under one year of age than in 1935, which however, it will be remembered was the lowest ever recorded for your district. The number was 37 during 1936 as compared with 26 in the previous year. The rate was 73 per 1,000 births compared with 59 for England and Wales and 70 for the Administrative County. The following table gives the number of live births, the deaths under one year and the infant mortality rate in your district since 1921 compared with those of England and Wales and the Administrative County.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(a) Medical Officer of Health—

JOHN G. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
whole-time officer for the joint areas of the Lanchester Rural
and Consett Urban District Councils.

(b) Sanitary Inspectors—

G. ROWE, Cert. S.I.B. & Meat Inspectors Cert.
(Senior Inspector).

F. E. TERRY, Cert. S.I.B. & Meat Inspectors Cert.

50% of the above officers' salaries are payable from County funds.

A general description of the arrangements for Home Nursing, Hospital and Ambulance Arrangements, Laboratory facilities, and Legislation in force appeared in the 1931 Report, and as there has been no substantial change in these, it is not repeated this year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I am indebted to Messrs Rowe and Terry the Sanitary Inspectors for much of the following information.

(1) (i) WATER SUPPLY.—There have been no extensions of the Durham County Water Board Mains to serve any part of the area not previously supplied, but a new auxiliary main was laid through one part of the area in order to supplement the supply of an adjoining district. This pipe line has been laid along the high part of this district upon which Old Cornsay, Quebec, Esh and Hill Top villages are situated. These two latter villages now obtain their service from this new main in lieu of the service main from Lanchester village which is 320 feet below Esh Village resulting in a more uniform pressure for these places.

At Satley Village a further six houses and the School have been connected to the Water-Board main laid down in 1934. There are now 21 houses out of a total of 27 taking a mains supply. In the case of the 6 remaining houses one has a private supply and 5 obtain water from the Boiling Well.

A pipe supply from this well serves two houses and the remaining three carry their supply. It is to be hoped that these three

cases will have a mains supply installed at some future time when structural alterations are being made.

Bacteriological examinations of the water from the Boiling Well have shewn the water to be suitable for drinking purposes.

There has been no shortage of water supplied by the Water Board during the year.

In those isolated parts of the area which are not served by a mains supply small improvements continue to be carried out. These are usually the result of an examination of the water proving the supply to be of doubtful quality or as a result of advice given concerning possible sources of pollution of what are otherwise good supplies. Six samples of water were taken during the year for Bacteriological examination and as a result five supplies of water had been improved by the end of the year.

The bad specimens are the result of the presence of B. Coli, organisms denoting contamination by faecal matter, generally of animal origin, but very undesirable in a water supply. In one of the samples Strepto-coci were also found indicating sewage pollution.

Mr. Simpkin, Engineer and Surveyor has kindly supplied the information concerning drainage and sewerage.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :—

During the year three schemes have been completed and another commenced with assistance of a 75% Grant from the Commissioner for Special Areas.

The sewers of Maiden Law Village have been linked up to Lanchester Main Sewage Works and the small plant at Maiden Law has been abandoned. The cost of the work excluding easements etc., is £496.

The village of Satley has been drained by laying main and branch sewers and a sewage works has been constructed capable of dealing with the flow from the 34 houses. The cost of the works and sewers is £891.

The existing Joint Sewage Works at Esh Winning have been completely reconstructed in reinforced concrete and the sewers extended to drain Hamsteels and Cornsay Colliery. The number of houses now draining to these works is 5,292 including 1,345 from the Brandon and Byshottles Urban District and the cost of the whole scheme was £8,260 at the end of the year.

Work has been commenced constructing a 12 inch outfall sewer and new Sewage Disposal Works at Langley Park to replace the two existing works which are unable to deal with the increased flow of sewage in this area. The works were commenced in July and the cost at the end of the year was £5,200 of the total of £12,890 for the complete scheme.

PROPOSED SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES :—

The following schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal have been submitted to the Ministry of Health and the Special Areas Commissioner for a Grant in aid.

Sewage Disposal Works to 18 houses at Hollinside Terrace, Lanchester. Estimated Cost £250-0-0.

Outfall Sewer and Sewage Works for 24 houses at Peartree Village. Estimated Cost £448-0-0.

Outfall Sewers and Sewage Works for 36 houses at Cornsay Village to link up two separate sewerage systems. Estimated Cost £812-0-0.

Relaying Outfall Sewer and extending sewage works at Hedleyhope Village. Estimated Cost £302-0-0.

New Outfall Sewer and Sewage Disposal Works for 68 houses at East Hedleyhope. Estimated Cost £753-0-0.

Outfall Sewer and small Sewage Works at Hedleyhill. Estimated Cost £202-0-0.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION :—

When the first sewerage schemes had been commenced a contract for the conversion of 269 privies and ash closets to Water Closets was carried out for houses along the routes of the new sewers. The contract was carried out by J. W. Foster, of Washington at a cost of £1,918-0-0.

A further scheme for conversions, at houses in connection with the proposed sewage schemes has now been submitted for the approval of the Ministry of Health.

(2) RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The Council's Sewage Scheme which provided for the abolition of the Cornsay Colliery Sewage Works and the construction of a new trunk sewer which conveys all the sewage of this village and picks up the sewage of Hamsteels Village, Railway Terrace and various isolated houses before being treated at the new Esh Winning Sewage Works has made a decided improvement in that section of the Hedleyhope Burn from Cornsay Colliery to a point East of Esh Winning R.C. Church which previously received directly or indirectly the drainage of 111 houses, 1 school and the effluent of the Cornsay Colliery Works. This section of the stream is near the highway and is very popular with children during the summer weather and this elimination of sewage matter has reduced those risks to health which a polluted stream can offer.

(3) (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—A privy conversion scheme comprising 268 houses at Burnhope, Holmside, Maiden Law, Langley Park, Hamsteels, Esh Winning, Cornsay Colliery and Satley Village was carried out during the year. In some places this was in conjunction with the provision of new sewerage schemes. In Craghead village a scheme involving new yards, out-offices, drainage and street work was completed, which included the substitution of 20 W.C.'s for the original 20 privy ashpits. A further 29 privy conversions were completed during the year in individual cases. The total privy conversions for the year amounted to 297 and the tabulated statement following shews the good progress made in your district with regard to this essential public health improvement during the last twelve years.

Year.	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
No. of Conversions ...	132	14	15	16	61	58	474	1917	14	7	30	297

The gross total of conversions during this period is 3,035.

The revised figures for sanitary accommodation in the area are:—

Water Closets	...	...	...	6233
Slop Closets	...	...	...	5
Ash Closets	...	...	...	1578
Chemical Closets	...	...	...	3
Ashpit Privies	...	...	...	724
Pail Closets	...	...	...	20

It is interesting to compare the position as in 1925 and 1936. In the earlier year only 25 per cent. of the total sanitary accommodation was under the water carriage system whereas in 1936 nearly 74 per cent. was on this system.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.—This work is carried out by 31 Contractors under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors. In Medomsley Nos. 5 and 6 Districts the Contractor was fined according to his contract for neglect. Apart from a few minor matters the work elsewhere was satisfactorily carried out. There are 8,119 premises included in the contracts and the work was carried out at an average cost of 8/8½ per house.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.—Systematic routine inspections and special inspections are carried out throughout the district for Housing, Milk Production, Meat Inspection, Infectious Diseases, Water Supply, Drainage Matters, Factories and Workshops, Offensive Trades, Shops, etc.

The year 1936 has been a particularly busy one in relation to Housing and also to the important matter of Clean Milk Production. As a result of this it has not always been possible to give the time one would desire to the other matters. In some instances only the immediate essentials could be dealt with as the work involved on Slum Clearance Schemes, together with the completion of the Overcrowding Surveys have taken up the major portion of the time available.

It must not be lost sight of that these matters involved the compilation of a mass of statistics going into minute details which must be recorded as a basis of any future action and in the absence of competent and adequate clerical assistance the Inspectors must of necessity carry this work out themselves. This to my mind is an expensive form of labour and in itself is uneconomic as obviously the time devoted to these matters could be better used for the welfare of the district.

Probably no department of a Local Sanitary Authority is required to keep such accurate statistical data of the work carried out as the Health Department of which this Annual Report is an example, yet one finds that when it comes to clerical assistance there is usually a reluctance to provide more than a bare minimum.

The following tables give a summary of the work done in these various matters:—

Summary of Work done in Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1936.

<i>I. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.</i>			No. of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	No. of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	No. of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul Conditions Structural Defects Overcrowding	... ... ...	81 1		75
Lodging-houses	...	...	
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	2		2
Cowsheds	...	...	4		2
Bakehouses	...	...	1		1
Slaughter Houses	...	...	5		5
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	17	268	285
Deposits of Refuse	...	...	7		7
Water Closets	...	...	3		3
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	2		2
House	Defective Traps	..	1		1
Dra nage	No disconnection from Sewers	...			
	Other Faults	...	25	24	8
Water Supply	...	...	1		1
Pigsties	...	...	
Animals improperly kept	..	...	3		3
Offensive Trades	...	...	
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	
Other Nuisances	...	...	68		68
Totals			221	292	503

	Number.	Remarks.
<i>II. WATER, FOOD & DRUGS.</i>		
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	8	
„ condemned as unfit for use	—	
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	*230	*230 cases of voluntary surrender by owners.
Convictions for exposing or selling ...	—	
Unwholesome Food ...	—	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ..	—	
Samples found Adulterated ...	—	
<i>III. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.</i>		
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ...	—	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	240	
Schools do do. ...	—	
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things ...	—	
Convictions for do. do. ..	—	
<i>IV. GENERAL.</i>		
Number of New Houses erected During year ...	*37	*4 cases of conversion of one house into two houses.
Number of such Houses occupied during year ...	37	
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets ...	—	
Ashpit privies do. Water-closets	75	
Ash-closets do. do.	221	
Chemical Closet do.	1	
Total No. of Water-closets in District	6233	
Do. Slop-closets do. ...	5	
Do. Ash-closets do. ...	1578	
Do. Chemical closets do. ...	3	
Do. Ashpit-privies do. ...	724	
Do. Pail-closets do. ...	20	

SUMMARY OF VISITS 1936.

AREA	Slaughter-houses and Meat Inspection	Housing Matters	Sanitary Accommodation and Drainage.	Disinfection and Infectious Diseases	Cowsheds, Dairies, Milk Shops & Milk Sampling,	Factories & Workshops	Scavenging and Refuse Tip Supervision	Offensive Trades	Water Supplies	Verminous Premises.	Other Matters	TOTALS
Langley Park, Malton Esh and Hill Top	79	113	9	79	38	..	13	..	..	..	3	334
Quebec, Hamsteels, Corns'y Hedley Hill & Hedl'yhope	111	468	28	40	50	..	16	..	6	5	3	727
Esh Winning & Ushaw M'r	55	8	20	20	10	4	14	..	..	1	..	132
Burnhope, Peartree and Holmside	4	17	4	8	22	..	24	..	..	1	..	80
Craghead & Middles Area ..	33	19	1	18	12	5	9	6	..	39	..	142
Satley and Butsfield ..	..	31	65	3	32	..	..	..	5	..	..	136
Lanchester, Greencroft and Maiden Law, ..	46	28	29	15	94	..	41	4	5	..	4	266
Ebchester	3	25	11	4	7	2	37	..	..	1	2	92
Medomsley & District ..	95	93	43	40	18	1	262	2	1	5	8	568
Castleside and Rowley ..	22	135	7	7	45	..	60	1	..	..	4	281
Delves, Templetown and District .. ..	..	89	..	6	27	..	33	..	1	..	..	156
Muggleswick & Waskerley	..	2	..	..	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
TOTALS	448	1028	217	240	383	12	509	13	18	52	24	2944

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1936, on the

1. Inspection of Factories Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises.		Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories ...	...	4	nil	nil
Workshops	...	7	nil	nil
Workplaces	...	1	nil	nil
Total	...	12	nil	nil

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.			Number of Defects.			Prosecutions.
			Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts</i>						
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	nil	nil	nil	nil
Want of ventilation	...	...	nil	nil	nil	nil
Overcrowding	...	...	nil	nil	nil	nil
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	nil	nil	nil	nil
Other nuisances	...	...	nil	nil	nil	nil
Sanitary Accommodation	Insufficient		...	nil	nil	nil
	Unsuitable or defective		...	nil	nil	nil
	not separate for sexes.		...	nil	nil	nil
Total	..	...	nil	nil	nil	nil

(iv) SHOPS ACT, 1935.—During the year sanitary and washing accommodation were provided to business premises in one case, where separate sexes were employed.

(v) SMOKE ABATEMENT.—There has been no occasion to remedy a smoke nuisance during the year.

(vi) SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS.—There are no public or privately owned swimming baths in the area. The water of a stream at East Hedleyhope village was examined as to its suitability for use as a bathing pool and the report was unfavourable, so the matter was not proceeded with.

(vii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—

1. A case of infestation by bed bugs was found in a Council house on the Craghead Estate and subsequent enquiries shewed that the previous tenant had sub-let a room to an aged person whose household effects had introduced the vermin. The tenant withheld all knowledge of the infestation and this department was only notified after a new tenant occupied the house.

2. The method employed to eradicate the vermin is to remove all skirtings, back moulds, wallpapers, and strip out cupboards and shelving. Whilst this work proceeds an approved vermicine is applied under pressure to all woodwork and interstices, including holes in plaster work. The house is then sealed up and fumigated and after 48 hours an examination made. If vermin are absent the woodwork is restored, all plaster etc. made good. Subsequent inspections have shewn the disinfection to be complete.

3. As a result of this case a recommendation of the Health Department was accepted by the Council in October that the existing house and goods of a prospective Council house tenant must be subjected to an examination by the Sanitary Inspector, who will recommend or otherwise the suitability of the tenant for removal to the Council Estate. An unsuitable tenant is required to cleanse all furniture and should the need arise any bug infestation must be cleared up before the tenancy is permitted. Up to the end of the year 23 inspections were carried out for these tenancy changes.

4. This work so far has been carried out by the Health Department, and as further Clearance Schemes become operative it will be more imperative than ever.

4. SCHOOLS.—There were no schools closed in the district by reason of infectious diseases. The drainage of the R.C. Schools Esh Winning and the C.E. School, Satley was connected to the Council's sewers which had been provided within the requisite statutory distance of the premises. The conservancy system of sanitary accommodation at Satley School was replaced by the water carriage system and a supply of water from the mains installed.

HOUSING.

There were 38 new houses erected in the area during the year, 17 by the Council and 21 by private enterprise. The 17 houses provided by the Council were the completion of the Craghead Slum Clearance Scheme in Thomas Street.

NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING 1936.

Parish	Place.	Address.	New Houses by		By alteration		Total
			L.A.	P.E.	L.A.	P.E.	
Craghead	Craghead	Thomas Street	17				17
Esh	Langley Park	2, Quebec Street		1	1		1
"	Esh Winning	2, West View					1
"	Esh Hill Top	Hill Top			1		1
Ebchester	East Law Est.	East Law		5			5
"	Spring Lane	Spring Lane		2			2
"	Ebchester	Opp, Summerfield Tce.		6			6
Healeyfield	Castleside	Drover Road		1			1
Knitsley	Knitsley Station	Knitsley Station		1			1
Lanchester	Maiden Law	Maiden Law		1			1
Medomsley	Medomsley	6, North View			1		1
Lanchester	Colepike	Cokepike Hall			1		1
TOTALS			17	17		4	38

SLUM CLEARANCE AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.—The work involved in detailed inspections resulted in the Council accepting official representations in respect of eight Clearance Schemes involving a total of 233 houses. Two public enquiries to hear objectors to orders were held, the first being on June 9th, 1936, respecting Cragg's Buildings, Muse Terrace, Young's Row and Davison Square, Castleside; East and West View, Templetown; and The Square, Esh Village. The second enquiry was held on September 15th, 1936, and was in respect of houses at Quebec Village and South Street, Hamsteels. All these orders were subsequently confirmed on the 22nd September and the 12th of December respectively, and it is to be hoped that December, 1937, will find most of the new houses required available for the displaced tenants.

It appears opportune to review the Council's programme relating to unfit houses from its inception, and the following table shews the position at December 31st, 1936. It will be seen that 400 houses have been dealt with, 142 have been replaced and 257 remain to be cleared.

SUMMARY OF POSITION OF CLEARANCE SCHEMES & INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES
to December 31st, 1936.

Parish.	Place.	Address.	No. houses involved.	Included as :		Closed		Vacated.			No. of H's to be	
				Cl. Area.	Unfit	1934	1935	1936	1935	1936	1935	Demol'd
Craghead Esh	Craghead Esh Hill Top	Nos. 11-24 & 30-34, 35-50 Thomas Street	35	—	—	35	..	..	16	..	..	16
"	do	Nos. 1, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 22, 23, 24, 25, Hill Top	10	10	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..
"	do	No. 19, Hill Top	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 1 & 2, East End	2	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
"	Esh Village	No. 1½, Broom Cottages	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
"	do	No. 11, Hall Road	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
"	do	No. 8½, Front Street	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 1½ & 2½, North View	4	4	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, Rutter Square	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
"	do	No. 2½, Golithly Square	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 17, The Square	22	..	..	..	..	22	..	..	..	..
"	Quebec	Nos. 1-22, Dyke Street	21	..	..	..	..	21	..	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 1-21, Clifford Street	22	..	..	..	..	22	..	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 1-22, Broekwell Street	21	..	..	..	..	21	..	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 1-21, Busty Street	20	..	..	..	..	20	..	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 1-20, Taylor Street	19	..	..	..	..	19	..	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 1-19, Oliver Street	19	..	..	..	..	19	..	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 1-19, New Single Street	19	..	..	..	..	19	..	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 1-19, Chapel Street	19	..	..	..	..	19	..	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 19-28, Church Street	10	..	..	..	1	10	..	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 19-28, South Street	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
"	Hamsteels	Mill Bottom Cottage	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Healeyfield	Castleside	No. 5, Davison Square	7	7	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 1-7, Craggs Buildings	7	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 1-7, Muse Terrace	5	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 1-5, Young's Row	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
"	do	No. 3, Davison Square	8	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..
Knitsley	Templetown	Nos. 1-8, East View	6	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 1-6, West View	14	..	..	14	..	..	14	..	..	..
"	Burnhope	Nos. 1-14, East Wood Row	40	..	..	40	..	..	40	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 1-40, West Wood Row	8	..	..	8	..	..	8	..	..	..
"	do	Nos. 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, Whitehouse Avenue	1	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
"	Pear Tree Village	Pear Tree Cottage	1	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
"	do	1, Victoria Terrace	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	do	4-5, The Mill	5	..	..	5	..	..	5	..	..	..
"	do	1-5, Blue Bell Yard	14	..	..	14	..	..	14	..	..	..
Medomsley	Hamsterley	4-17, Middle Row	14	..	..	14	..	..	14	..	..	..
"	Colliery	3-16, Stone Row	8	..	..	8	..	..	8	..	..	..
"	do	1-8, South Row	400	29	142	24	234	123	19	108	4	27
		Totals	371	29	142	24	234	123	19	108	4	27

HOUSING ACT, 1935.—The completion of the more arduous of the Overcrowding Survey was effected by March of the year. This Survey included the measurement of all the rooms of working class houses in the area, the preparation of a card for each house, and the completion of the forms required by the Ministry of Health shewing in graph form the position so far as the area was concerned regarding Uncrowded and Overcrowded Houses. The result reveals that out of a total of 7,696 houses, 780 cases were overcrowded, i.e., 10.1 per cent.

There were 780 families comprising 4,622 persons concerned in these overcrowded cases. Since building of houses for Clearance Schemes in some places coincides with areas where overcrowding prevails, the Council have decided on a policy of making provision for both schemes at the same time on the sites concerned. This policy will enable these two bad features of housing to be eliminated simultaneously.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1936.

1.—*Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	459
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	626
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	455
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	715
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	263
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	158

2.—*Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	102
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

3.—*Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:*

A.—Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—				
(a) By owners	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...			Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil.

C.—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	233
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	Nil

D.—Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	I
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4—Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding.

(a)	1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	780
	2. Number of families dwelling therein	780
	3. Number of persons dwelling therein	4622
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c)	1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
	2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS IN THE AREA.

Trade.	Registered Factory. Workshop.	
Agricultural Implement Repairers	...	1
Blacksmiths	... 1	6
Boot Repairers	... 4	7
Bake-houses	...	6
Coke Works	... 3	
Corn Grindery	... 1	
Food Preparation Stores	... 7	
Hosiery	... 1	
Joiners	... 4	8
Lead Mills	... 1	
Millinery	...	1
Motor Repairers	... 1	9
Painters	...	1
Printers	... 1	1
Pipe and Brick Works	... 2	
Saddlers	...	1
Sculptors	...	1
Saw Mills	... 1	
Tailors	...	2
Totals	... 27	44

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—The following is a summary of the main facts in connection with the Milk Supply in your Area:—

Number of Farms with Cowsheds (Registered)	223
Number of Registered Cowsheds	287
Number of New Farm Registrations during the year	2
Number of Farms discontinued during the year	9
Number of Registered Producers & Wholesalers	99
Number of Registered Producers & Retailers	74
Number of Registered Producers, Wholesalers & Retailers	2
Number of Registered Producers & Buttermakers	43
For own use only	3
Number of Milkshops in the area (including shops selling bottle milk)	19
Number of Retailers Not Producers Resident in the area	7
Number of Retailers Not Producers Not Resident in area	5
Number of Producers Non-Resident Retailing in the area	24
Approximate number of Dairy Cattle	2,296
Approximate Daily Yield in Gallons	4,592

MILK PRODUCTION:—

Satisfactory progress has been made during the year as a continuation of the propaganda work done in the past for a “safer and cleaner milk supply.” A better equipped and type of premises are gradually supplanting those premises where clean milk production relied on an enormous amount of hard work and a big proportion of “good luck.” A standard of premises and methods have been agreed upon with the County Council as a basis to work upon in order that all new premises or alterations will fit into the scheme, which automatically makes the premises meet the requirements for an “Accredited Milk Licence,” when the occupier makes his application. Such an arrangement is appealing to the producer since his work and the attendant risks are reduced to a minimum, chiefly, the personnel. Further, when an adverse sample result occurs, the cause is much easier to trace than formerly. There is every reason to hope that this system will be a big link in the chain that will end in a milk supply

from Tuberculin Tested herds which will be housed in hygienic premises. The following resume shows what has been accomplished under this policy during the year:—

Complete new premises, comprising cowshed, cooling and sterilizing room properly equipped, all provided with an adequate water supply, drainage and disposal, have been provided at the following farms:—

PLACE.	NAME OF FARM.
Ebchester	Derwent Dene.
Burnhope.	Burnhope Flatts.
Quebec	Clifford House.
Healeyfield.	Healeyfield Farm.
Lanchester.	Maiden Hall.
Lanchester.	The Lizards.
Greencroft.	Sunniside.

In each instance these have become the premises for milk production to replace the previous unsatisfactory buildings.

In the following cases a cowshed has been re-modelled or formed from existing buildings and cooling and sterilizing facilities provided also to complete the scheme:—

PLACE.	FARM.
Cornsay.	North Farm.
Lanchester.	Woodlands Hall.
Lanchester.	Langley House.
Lanchester.	Stobillee.
Craghead.	Middles.

New cowsheds only, either to replace unfit ones or for additional accommodation have been provided as follows:—

PLACE.	FARM.
Satley.	Meadowfield.
Lanchester.	Margery Flatts.
Esh Winning.	Flass.

Internal re-arrangement of an existing cowshed has been carried out at the following:—

PLACE.	FARM.
Greencroft.	Sunniside.
Malton.	Biggen House.
Butsfield.	Butsfield Burn.
Satley.	Hall Hill.

Cooling and sterilizing rooms complete with equipment have been provided at:—

PLACE.	FARM.
Rowley.	Whitehall.
Dyke Nook	Newhouse.
Esh.	Esh Hall.
Cornsay.	Cowsley.
Butsfield.	Eliza.
Castleside.	Todd Hills.
Castleside.	Wharnley Burn.
Satley.	Wheatley Grange
Medomsley.	Southfield.

In addition to these major alterations several minor matters have been completed among which were :—

Improved water supply to Ragpathside, Newhouse, and Hagg Farms. Additional lighting with concrete approach to cowshed at Sleepwalks Farm.

In pursuance of all this work including routine inspections 448 visits have been paid to farms.

MILK SAMPLES:—

25 samples were submitted for Bacteriological Examination by the Agricultural Department of Armstrong College, Newcastle. 15 of the samples were test samples for an “Accredited Producer’s Licence.” The following table shows an analysis of the results of the 25 samples:—

Bacterial Count.			Coliform Content.				
Not exceeding		Exceed- ing 200,000	Not Present.	1 c.c.	1 c.c.	01 c.c.	001 cc.
30,000	200,000						
23	2	Nil	17	5	2	1	Nil

Butter Fats.		Solids Not Fat.	
Legal Standard	Below Legal Standard	Legal Standard	Below Legal Standard
20	1	21	Nil

Of the 25 sample results the fat content of
4 samples was omitted.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936:—

PASTEURISED MILK.—Licenses have been issued as follows:—

2 Supplementary Licenses for Pasteurised Milk.

6 Dealers Licenses for Pasteurised Milk.

CERTIFIED AND ACCREDITED MILKS:—

The County Council, who are the licensing authority for the production of such milks have granted one “Certified” and 17 “Accredited” licenses during the year to producers in the area.

The “Certified” licence is in respect of the Tubercular free herd at Moor Leazes Farm, Lanchester, and is the first such licence to be issued in this area.

There are now 1 “Certified” and 26 “Accredited” producers in the the area, and there is every reason to expect that this total will be appreciably increased during 1937. There are 23 “Tuberculin—Tested” and 263 “Accredited” licenses in the County thus 4.3% and 9.9% of the total licenses issued are in this area.

CLEAN MILK COMPETITION, 1936:—

In the largest clean milk competition the County Council have yet held, two farmers in the area gained second place in their groups of 31 and 10 competitors respectively.

VETERINARY OFFICER'S REPORT.

The following is a copy of the County Veterinary Officer's Report for the year 1936 in respect of cowsheds, etc., in your area:—

Number of visits to cowkeepers	...	...	414
Number of cows examined	...	...	4796
General condition and type of cows	...		Satisfactory
General cleanliness of cows	...	...	Fairly good
General conditions of sanitation	...	...	Fairly good
Chief methods of milk disposal	...		Wholesale and retail
Number of animals slaughtered under the			

Tuberculosis Order:—

(a) Tuberculosis of the udder or giving			
T.B. milk	...	...	5
(b) Other forms of Tuberculosis	...		17
			—
Total	...	...	22

Number of cases of diseases other than			
Tuberculosis (Chiefly Mastitis)	...	...	97

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

With few exceptions a good class of cow is kept in this district and the general hygienic conditions are fairly good. At certain farms extensive alterations have been carried out on the byres and at others completely new byres and dairies have been built to reach "Accredited" standard. There are still a few premises, however, which are not up to the general standard but these are chiefly used for buttermaking. The number of "Accredited" producers is steadily increasing and one licence has been taken out for the production of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—At the end of last year there were 27 Licensed Slaughter Houses in the area. The licenses in the case of five have not been renewed and in four others no slaughtering has been done. The work of inspection therefore has been confined to the remaining slaughter houses and as slaughtering takes place over four days in the week much time has to be spent over this important work in order to examine as many carcasses as possible. In the case of sheep however it has been found impracticable to see all the carcasses slaughtered since it appears to be a common practice to slaughter these animals in small numbers from day to day as requirements arise.

Generally, the quality of animals slaughtered can be regarded as good and it is pleasing to note that there is a keenness amongst the meat traders in the area to welcome inspection and the co-operation of the Inspectors.

There are only two retail meat traders in the area who do not slaughter their own animals. The business of one is confined solely to imported meat, neither these nor any of the businesses connected with established meat traders gave rise for any adverse comment during the year. The number of non-resident retailers periodically come into the area. The vehicles of these traders and their contents are checked over as the occasion arises and no instance of any doubtful supplies was found. When trouble does arise with this kind of trader it is when stock prices slump and a number of "temporary traders" commence in business travelling from area to area selling meat at cut prices until the market returns to normal when they revert to their normal occupation, whatever that may be. It is impossible to keep a check on all these cases under the present system of inspection, and a useful purpose would be served if some form of licensing was available which would control this branch of meat trading.

The slaughtering premises of one establishment were considerably improved during the year by provision of a new roof to the slaughter house, lairs and preparation room, improved lighting and ventilation of the premises and the cement rendering of all internal walls to a height of five feet from floor level.

The following tables give details of the work of meat inspection and a summary of meat inspection from 1925 to 1936 has been prepared to demonstrate the increased work in this department of Public Health.

CLASSIFICATION OF CARCASSES EXAMINED, DURING 1936.

BULLS	...	...	...	...	7
BULLOCKS	...	...	...	...	127
COWS	...	...	...	...	121
HEIFERS	...	...	...	...	285
CALVES	...	...	...	...	5
SHEEP	...	...	...	...	582
PIGS	...	...	...	...	251
					<hr/>
TOTAL		...	...	...	1378 Carcases
					<hr/>

Of the above carcasses examined, 11 cases were by Occasional slaughter.

The total weight of meats condemned is:—

BEEF	...	...	...	...	3748 lbs.
PORK	...	...	...	...	50 lbs.
					<hr/>
					3798 lbs.
					<hr/>
OFFALS	...	...	...	...	1170½ lbs.
					<hr/>
					4968½ lbs.
					<hr/>

In pursuance of the above meat inspection 443 visits were paid to Slaughter-houses, etc.

TUBERCULOSIS IN FOOD ANIMALS 1936.

BOVINES

Parts Affected.	Bulls		Bullocks		Cows		Heifers		Calves		Pigs		Total No. of Bovine & Pigs No Wt.	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
				lbs.		lbs.		lbs.				lbs.		lbs.
Carcase and all Organs			1	612	2	1204							3	1816
Forequarters					2	708							2	708
Hinquarters			1	200	2	380							3	580
Heads and Tongues			2	36	1	20	1	14			7		11	139½
Livers			1	14	1	28							2	42
Lungs (pairs)			3	21	11	87	8	53	1	3	1	1½	24	165½
Mesenteries			3	62	2	45					1	3	6	110
Stomachs					1	60							1	60
TOTALS			11	945	22	2532	9	67	1	3	9	74	52	3621
Number of Separate Carcases Tubercular			5		12		9		1		8		35	
Total Number of Animals Slaughtered	7		127		121		285		5		251		796	
Percentage of Animals Tubercular	Nil.		3·9 p.c.		9·9 p.c.		3·1 p.c.		20·0 p.c.		3·1 p.c.		4·3 p.c.	

SUMMARY OF INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN FOOD ANIMALS 1936.

	Bulls	Bullocks	Cows	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total.
Total No. Separate Carcases Affected with Tuberculosis ...	Nil.	5	12	9	1	...	8	35
Other Diseases ...	Nil.	5	21	19	Nil	196	23	264
Total No. Carcases Diseased ...	Nil.	10	33	28	1	196	31	299
Total No. Animals Slaughtered ...	7	127	121	285	5	582	251	1378
Percentage of Animals Affected ...	Nil.	7.8 p.c.	27.2 p.c.	9.8 p.c	20.0 p.c.	33.6 p.c.	12.3 p.c.	21.7 p.c.
Total No. Animals Found Free from Disease ...	7	117	88	257	4	332	220	1079
Percentage of Animals Found Free from Disease ...	100 p.c.	92.2 p.c.	72.8 p.c.	90.2 p.c.	80.0 p.c.	66.4 p.c	87.7 p.c.	78.3 p.c.

DISEASES IN FOOD ANIMALS OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS, 1936.

BOVINES.															Total No. All Animals		
DISEASES.	PARTS AFFECTED.	Bulls		Bullocks		Cows		Heifers		Calves		Sheep		Pigs		No.	Wt.
		No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.		
Abscesses	Liver	...	...	1	14	1	10	2	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	34
"	Lungs	...	...	...	...	2	14	2	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	28
Bruised Flesh	Parts	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	16
Cirrhosis	Liver	...	...	3	21	18	120	11	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	256
Degenerated Cysts	Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Distomatitis	Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	8
Erysipelas	Parts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	40
Coccidea Frustrum	Parts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	10
Fatty Degeneration...	Liver	...	...	...	...	1	14	1	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	26
Mammitis Septic	Cascade & all organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	560	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	560
Necrosis	Liver	...	...	1	6	5	41	2	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	66
Putrefaction	Hindquarters	...	...	...	...	1	168	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	168
Pneumonia	Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Strongylus Rnfescens	Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	189	209	...	...	189	209
" Paradoxus	Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	20
TOTALS	...			5	41	28	367	20	746			196	217	23	76	272	1447
No. of separate carcasses diseased	...	Nil	...	5	...	21	...	19	...	Nil	...	196	...	23	...	264	...
Total No. of Animals Slaughtered	...	7	...	127	...	121	...	285	...	5	...	582	...	251	...	1378	...
Percentages of carcasses diseased	...	Nil	...	3.9 p.c.	...	17.3 p.c.	...	6.6 p.c.	...	Nil	...	33.6 p.c.	...	9.1 p.c.	...	19.1 p.c.	...

SUMMARY OF MEAT INSPECTION, 1925-1936.

CLASSIFICATION OF CARCASSES EXAMINED.				CLASSIFICATION OF CARCASSES CONDEMNED.				WEIGHTS IN LBS.				CLASSIFICATION OF OFFALS CONDEMNED.								
Year	No. of Slaughter Houses	No. of Inspections made	Bovines	Sheep	Pigs	Total	Bovines	Sheep	Pigs	Total	Total Wt. of Condemned Carcasses	Total Wt. of parts of Carcasses	Gross Total of Meat of Condemned	Pairs of Lungs	Liver	Head and T'ngues	Hearts	Kidn'ys	St'achs and Mesent-eries	
1925	28	...	2	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	1120	...	1120	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...
27	28	...	...	..	...	...	5	...	...	5	2800	...	2800	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	27	446	539	221	234	994	7	..	...	7	3844	42	3886	27	53	...	..	...	...	...
29	27	1193	1281	880	345	2506	8	5	1	14	4859	160	5019	318	140	12	2	4	...	...
30	27	1035	1093	862	258	2213	7	1	4	12	4071	676	4747	320	162	10	...	...	...	...
31	26	889	865	768	312	1945	6	2	3	11	2030	777	2807	263	87	13	...	...	...	...
32	28	819	753	728	340	1821	4	1	1	6	1982	502	2484	115	161	32	...	2	...	20
33	28	696	722	661	269	1652	7	2	...	9	3394	1038	4432	453	179	23	...	...	...	20
34	27	706	874	734	283	1891	6	...	...	6	3677	278	3955	441	132	31	...	3	...	11
35	27	654	849	773	290	1912	6	...	1	7	2654	119	2773	243	74	16	...	4	...	7
36	27	443	545	582	251	1378	4	...	...	4	2376	1522	3898	236	56	11	...	...	...	...
		6881	7523	6209	2582	16314	62	11	10	83	32807	5114	37921	2416	1056	148	2	13	58	...

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—There are 17 fish friers and 1 gut scraping business established in the area. No complaint of the method of conduct of these businesses was made during the year.

(c) ADULTERATION.—No action, except by officers of the County Council who operate in the area.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

GENERAL,—The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1936 was 363 which was practically the same as in the previous year. The greater part of this number was due to scarlet fever and diphtheria. Fortunately the pressure on hospital accommodation was less than in previous years and it was possible to find accommodation when necessary. No connection was discovered between the cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and Puerperal Fever which were notified during the year and scarlet fever cases. The following table shews the number of cases of infectious diseases notified in your area since 1925.

Disease.	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
Smallpox ...	530	215	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	142	66	44	57	70	71	123	436	348	160	158
Diphtheria ...	70	88	126	65	50	42	37	98	136	97	96
Enteric Fever (and Para-Typhoid)	1	2	2	3	4	14	—	1	91	19	—
Puerperal Fever ...	1	—	3	1	7	2	1	2	3	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	4	6	6	4	2	1	3	3	4	9
Pneumonia ...	12	42	46	52	35	29	29	57	46	22	33
Ophthalmia											
Neonatorum .	5	6	5	4	5	3	4	1	5	2	1
Erysipelas ...	19	20	19	32	25	14	12	13	35	9	9
Encephalitis											
Lethargica...	—	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5
Cerebro-Spinal Fever...	—	—	1	—	1	2	2	3	4	3	5
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis ...	39	47	74	68	41	35	43	43	35	45	46
Totals ...	820	494	347	290	245	214	253	657	706	362	363

PROPOSED NEW HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—

Considerable preliminary progress has been made with this scheme and the present plans provide for a modern hospital with the necessary medical and nursing staff to deal with all notifiable infectious diseases. It is proposed to utilise Langley Park Hospital for Smallpox after the new hospital has been provided.

The new building will provide for 146 patients and separate ward blocks will be available for pneumonia, scarlet fever, diphtheria, complicated cases of measles and whooping-cough. A sufficiency of single bed cubicle accommodation has been provided for, to make the possibility of cross infections arising the minimum obtainable. An up-to-date Nurses home is incorporated with the administration block with lecture and demonstration rooms so that recognition as a training school can be obtained. A well equipped laboratory and artificial sunlight apparatus and probably X-ray facilities together with a small operating theatre are provided for in the scheme, which when complete will provide N.W. Durham with one of the most modern small isolation hospitals in the Country.

SCARLET FEVER.—This disease accounted for 158 of the total cases notified and generally speaking was “mild” in type. The same good features, the reduction of the number of return cases and the absence of serious complaints as were referred to in my report last year were again noticed and in my opinion the improvement is definitely associated with the cessation of overcrowding.

There was 1 death in the 158 cases equal to a case mortality of 0.6 per cent.

DIPHTHERIA.—I referred last year to the increase in the number of notifications of this disease in recent years. The number of cases this year was 96 and was practically the same as in 1935. Part of this increase is due to better notification and better diagnosis of mild cases, which prior to bacteriological assistance would have been overlooked. There were 5 deaths in these 96 cases, a case mortality of 5.2 per cent. which is a great improvement on the 10 per cent. and 11.1 per cent. of the previous two years.

ENTERIC FEVER.—No cases of enteric fever were notified during the year, this being the second successive year without cases.

DYSENTERY.—5 cases were notified during the year, 3 of which were in one house. There was 1 fatal case but there was no spread

of this disease beyond the infected households. In four of these cases the organism found by bacteriological examination was *B. Dysenteriae Flexner*.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—1 case of puerperal fever was notified during 1936. The cause was perineal Sepsis following laceration after instrumental delivery. There was one death.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—There were 9 cases notified during the year. In three instances the services of a consultant were required, which assistance was immediately available by means of the County Council's Scheme. Hospital treatment and consultant's services are available through this scheme for all practitioners desiring it.

ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION.—The Council defray the cost of material required for immunisation against diphtheria. Medical practitioners in the area can obtain this on request but little use has been made of it up to the present.

DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN.—This is supplied free of cost to medical practitioners in the area and is freely used. *Strepto-coccus Anti-toxin* (Scarlatina) is also supplied if requested.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE DIFFERENT INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN 1936, IN THE VARIOUS PARISHES.

Disease.	Cornsay	Craghead	Ebchester	Esh	Greencroft	Healeyfield	Hedleyhope	Knitsley	Lanchester	Langley	Medomsley	Muggleswick	Satley	Totals.
Scarlet Fever ...	23	16	...	80	1	2	2	2	8	3	19	...	2	158
Diphtheria ...	2	6	2	38	...	5	2	...	16	2	22	...	1	96
Erysipelas ...	...	1	...	4	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	9
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	5
Oph. Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia ...	2	2	...	14	...	2	2	1	3	...	6	...	1	33
Meningitis														
Cerebro Spinal ...	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	..	9
Totals ...	27	28	2	143	2	10	7	3	29	6	56	...	4	317

AGE OF OCCURRENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING 1936.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 years & over	Total.
Scarlet Fever ...	...	5	8	12	13	61	40	11	6	2	...	...	158
Diphtheria ...	...	3	5	3	...	39	24	10	7	4	1	...	96
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	3	2	9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia ...	2	4	...	1	...	6	1	2	3	3	7	4	33
Meningitis Cerebro-Spinal...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	5
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	...	...	9
Dysentery ...	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Totals ...	3	13	14	17	13	111	66	24	27	12	11	6	317

NOTIFIABLE CASES.

The following Table shows the numbers of cases of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) reported during the year 1936.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	158	133	1
Diphtheria ...	96	87	5
Dysentery ...	5	0	1
Erysipelas ...	9	4	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	1	0	0
Pneumonia ...	33	0	24
Meningitis Cerebro-Spinal	5	4	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	9	0	0
Puerperal Fever ...	1	0	0
Totals ...	317	228	31

TUBERCULOSIS.—Forty six new cases were notified during 1936, which is one more than last year. There were 34 cases of the respiratory and 12 of the non-respiratory type of disease. Efforts are made to re-house those living under bad conditions as opportunity offers and place them in surroundings more suitable for their health. Progress is slow in this direction and it should be a main feature of Tuberculosis work, as apart from the victim there are the contacts to consider.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1936.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
5	2	...	2	...	...	...	1	...
10	3	1	1	1	1	...	...	...
15	3	2	...	6	1	1	...	2
20	2	2	...	1	...	1	...	...
25	1	2	...	...	1	2	...	...
30	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
40	3	1	..	...	2	...	...	...
45	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
50	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
55	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
60	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Totals	24	10	3	9	9	6	1	2

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.—There were fewer deaths in 1936 from this disease than last year, 19 and 23 respectively. This gives a lower tuberculosis death-rate than in 1935, 0.59 compared with 0.70 per 1,000 population. Pulmonary, 0.47, Non-pulmonary, 0.12. The percentage of deaths in non-notified cases was 5.7. It is satisfactory to report that on the whole notification of Tuberculosis is well carried out in this district. Where a non-notified death does occur a reasonable explanation is generally obtained.

(a) CANCER.—The mortality from this disease has been dealt with elsewhere.

(b) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—No action under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, was taken during the year.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS.—No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and no action under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

EXAMINATION OF SPECIMENS.

The following were examined during the year at the Public Health Laboratory, Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne:—

		Total.	Pos.	Neg.	Incon- clusive.
Throat Swabs for Diphtheria		124	15	107	2
Sputa for Tubercle	...	63	7	56	-
Blood for "Enteric"	...	5	-	5	-
Fæces for Dysentery	...	4	4	-	-
		—	—	—	—
Totals	...	190	25	163	2
		—	—	—	—

